

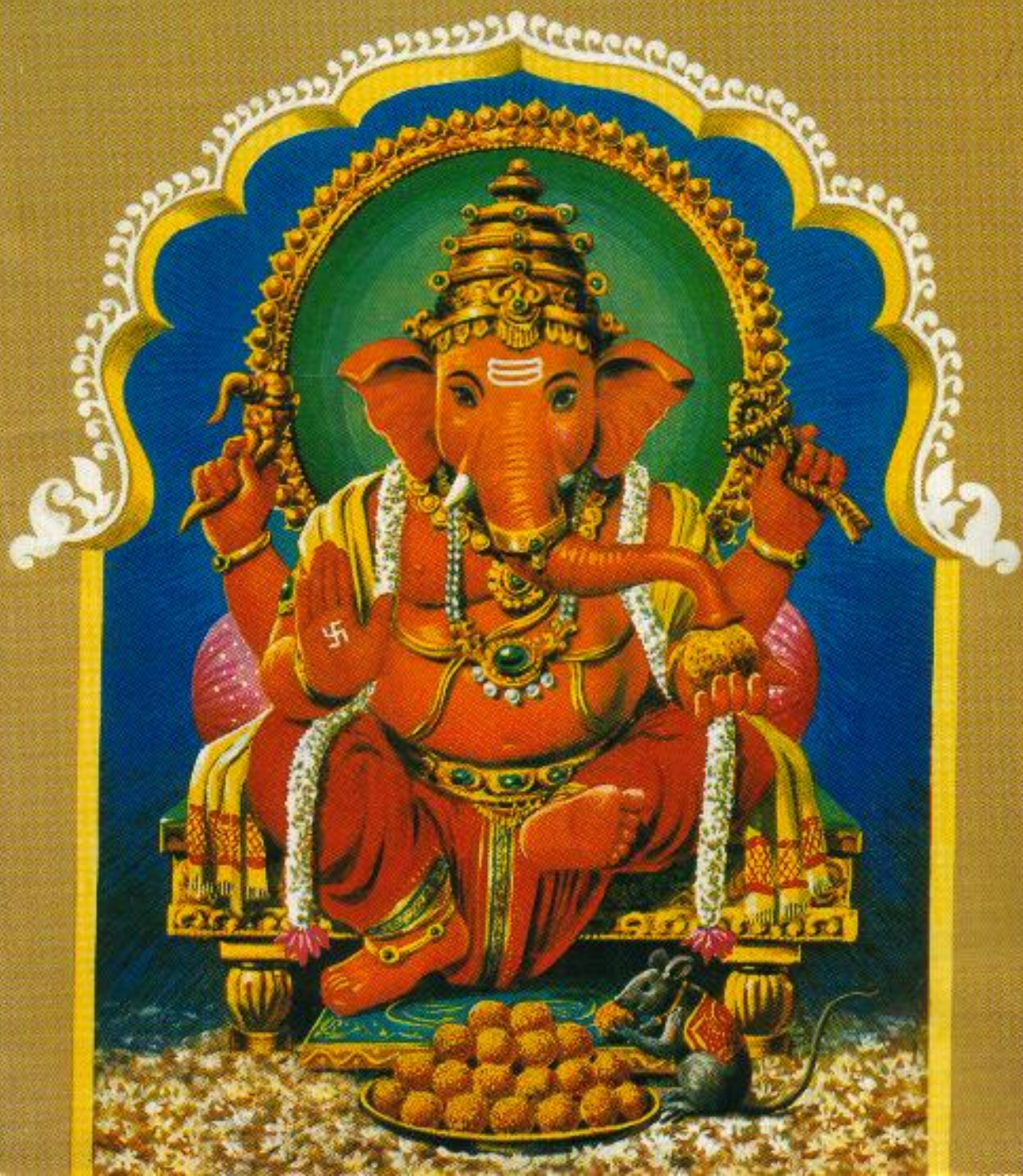


GANESHA

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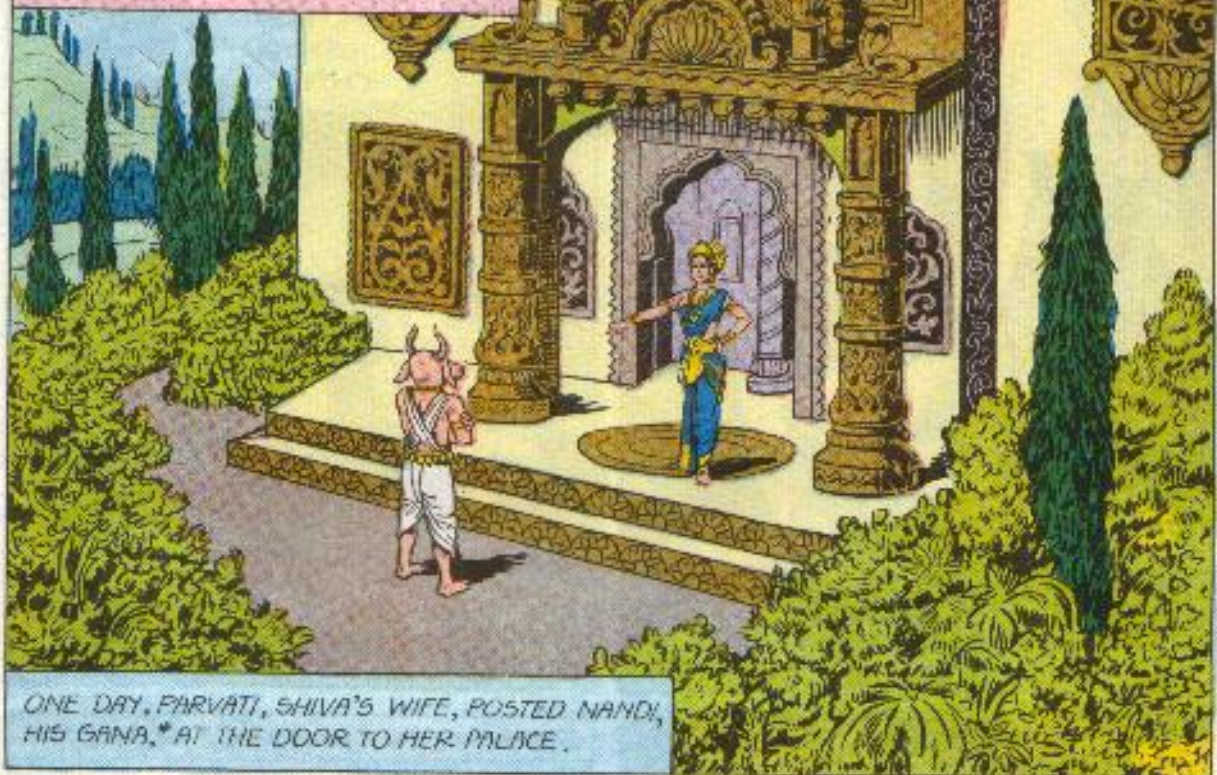
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C.M. Vitankar

Editor
Anant Pai

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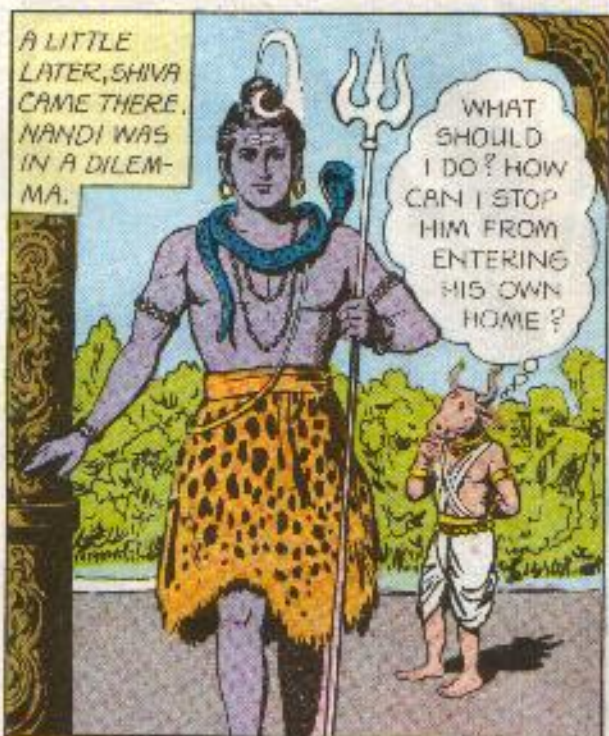
GANESHA



ONE DAY, PARVATI, SHIVA'S WIFE, POSTED NANDI, HIS GANA,* AT THE DOOR TO HER PALACE.



I AM GOING TO HAVE MY BATH. DO NOT LET ANYONE ENTER AND DISTURB ME.



A LITTLE LATER, SHIVA CAME THERE. NANDI WAS IN A DILEMMA.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? HOW CAN I STOP HIM FROM ENTERING HIS OWN HOME?

* ATTENDANT.

SHIVA ENTERED THE PALACE AND STRODE INTO THE INNER ROOMS.



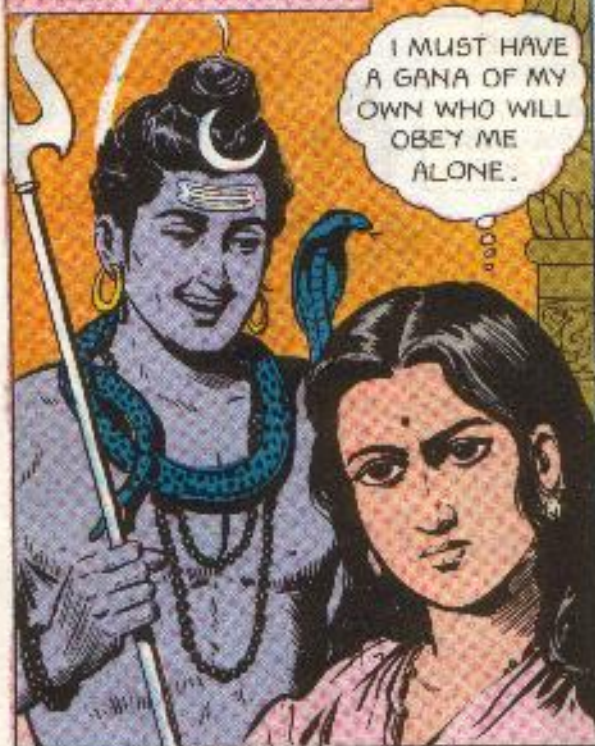
MY LORD,
HERE? BUT
NANDI WAS
TOLD...

NANDI HAS
DISOBEYED ME.
YOU MAY BE MY
HUSBAND BUT HE
HAD NO RIGHT
TO LET YOU
ENTER!

HA!
HA!



SHIVA WAS AMUSED BUT
PARVATI WAS ANNOYED.



I MUST HAVE
A GANA OF MY
OWN WHO WILL
OBEY ME
ALONE.

SHE SPOKE TO HER FRIENDS ABOUT IT.



YOU ARE RIGHT. NONE
OF THE GANAS CAN
REALLY BE CALLED
YOUR OWN.

ONE OF THEM HAD AN IDEA.

WHY DON'T YOU CREATE
A GANA WHO WILL OWE
FIRST ALLEGIANCE
TO YOU?

A GOOD
SUGGESTION.
I SHALL.



SHE GATHERED THE SAFFRON PASTE
FROM HER OWN BODY AND CREATED A BOY.



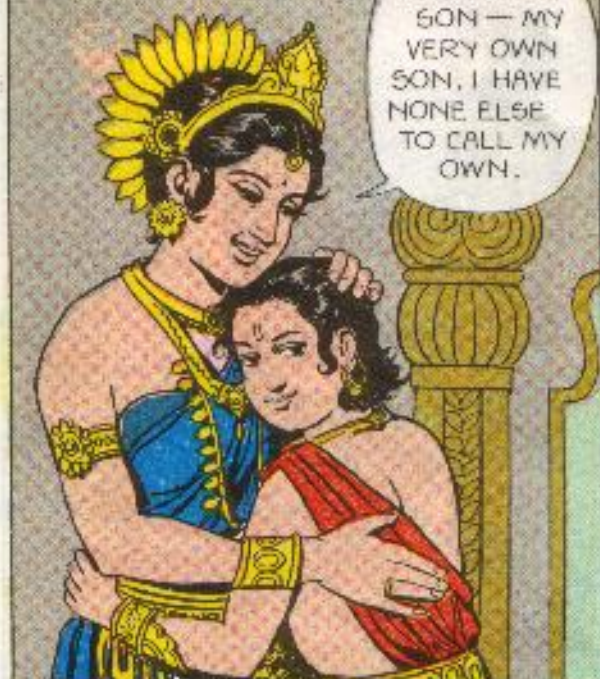
WHEN SHE FINISHED, SHE GAZED IN ADMIRATION
AT HER OWN CREATION.

HOW HANDSOME
HE IS! HOW
STRONG HE
LOOKS!



SHE DECKED HIM WITH ORNAMENTS
AND BLESSED HIM, THEN —

YOU ARE MY
SON — MY
VERY OWN
SON, I HAVE
NONE ELSE
TO CALL MY
OWN.



COMMAND
ME, MOTHER.
WHAT
SHOULD I DO?

TAKE THIS
STAFF AND
FOLLOW ME.



SHE LED HIM TO THE DOOR.

STAND HERE AND LET NO
ONE ENTER WITHOUT
MY PERMISSION.



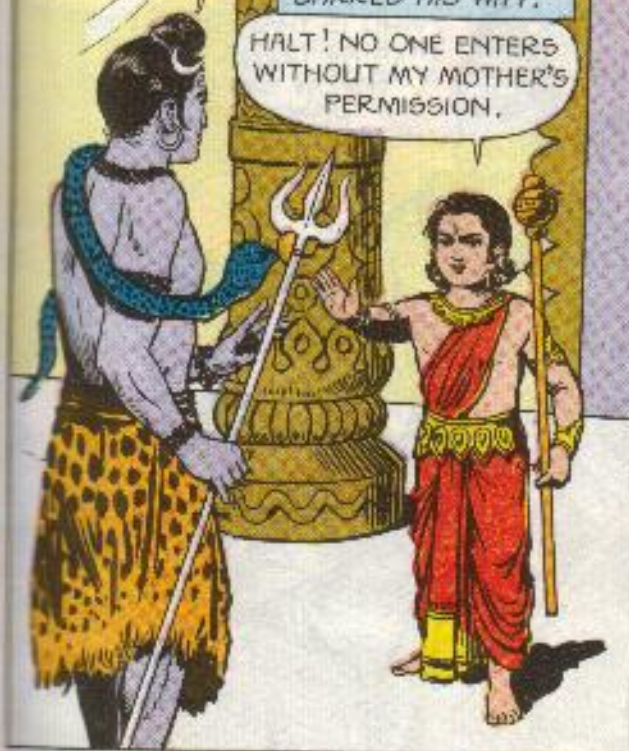
A LITTLE LATER —

WHO COULD THAT
BOY BE? I HAVE
NEVER SEEN
HIM BEFORE.



TO SHIVA'S ASTONISHMENT, THE YOUTH
BARRED HIS WAY.

HALT! NO ONE ENTERS
WITHOUT MY MOTHER'S
PERMISSION.



SHIVA WAS TAKEN ABACK.

FOOLISH BOY! DO
YOU KNOW WHO
I AM? MOVE OUT
OF MY WAY.



WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD, THE YOUTH
STRUCK SHIVA
WITH HIS STAFF.



SHIVA WAS FURIOUS.

FOOL! I AM
SHIVA,
PARVATI'S HUSBAND.
HOW DARE YOU
FORBID ME TO
ENTER MY OWN
HOME!

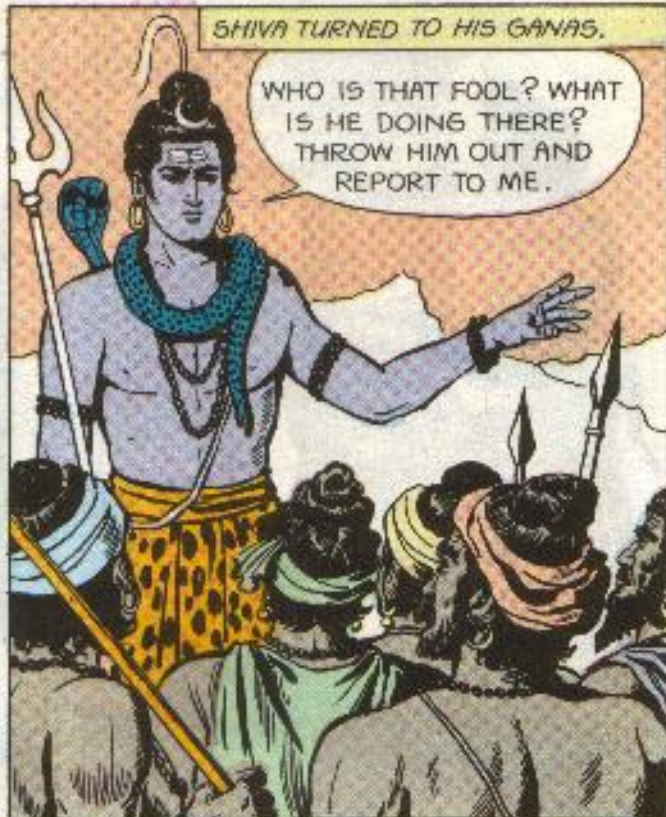


BUT THE YOUTH ONLY RAISED HIS STAFF AND HIT SHIVA ONCE AGAIN.



SHIVA TURNED TO HIS GANAS.

WHO IS THAT FOOL? WHAT IS HE DOING THERE? THROW HIM OUT AND REPORT TO ME.



SHIVA LEFT AND THE GANAS TURNED UPON THE YOUTH.

GET AWAY WITH YOU OR YOU WILL RECEIVE A TASTE OF MY VALOUR.

YOU GET AWAY FROM HERE, IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIFE.

YOU SEEM TO FORGET THAT WE ARE SHIVA'S GANAS.



THE YOUTH STOOD STILL FOR A WHILE. HE WAS PUZZLED.



MEANWHILE, INDOORS PARVATI HAD HEARD THE COMMOTION. SHE SENT HER FRIEND OUT.



THE FRIEND SOON RETURNED.



PARVATI HESITATED FOR A MOMENT.





I REPEAT, SHIVA SHALL NOT ENTER WITHOUT MY MOTHER'S PERMISSION.



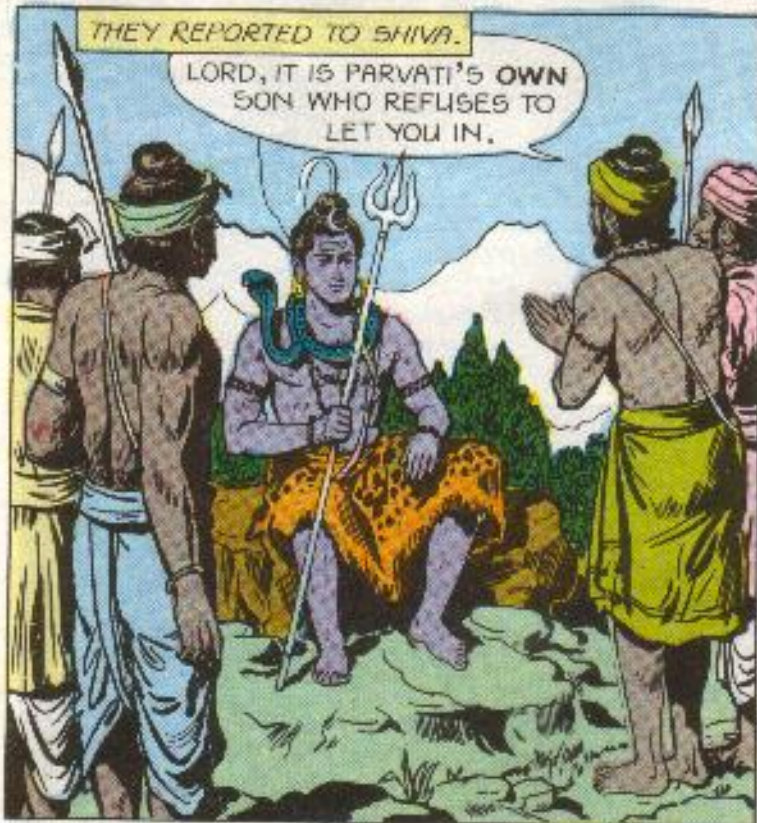
NOW, THE GANAS WERE DOUBTFUL.

HE IS PARVATI'S SON. WHAT SHOULD WE DO? WOULD SHIVA STILL WANT US TO THROW HIM OUT?



THEY REPORTED TO SHIVA.

LORD, IT IS PARVATI'S OWN SON WHO REFUSES TO LET YOU IN.



ALAS, PARVATI! YOU HAVE GONE TOO FAR. YOU HAVE LEFT ME WITH NO ALTERNATIVE.



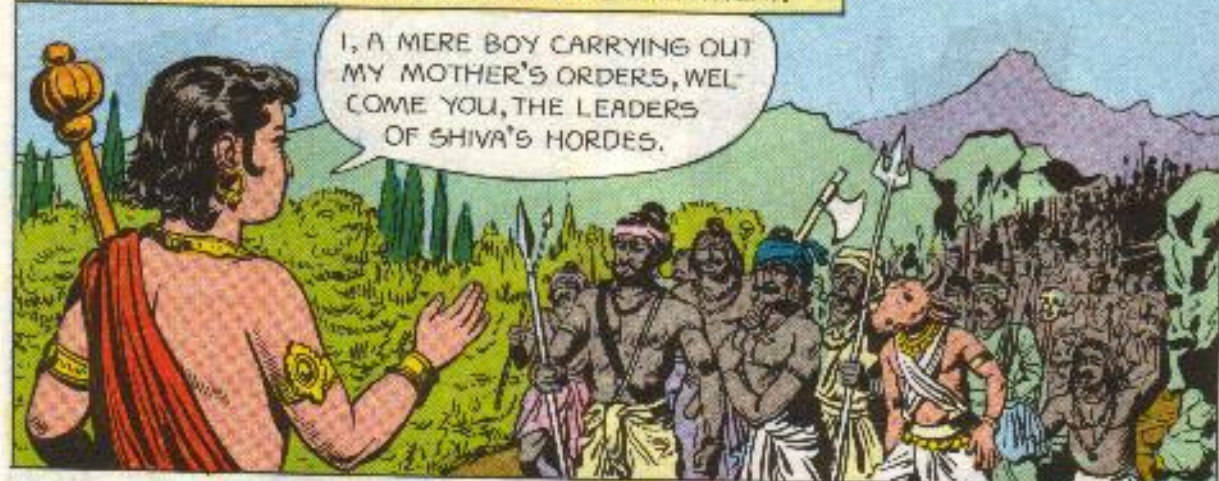
IF I TELL MY GANAS TO WITHDRAW, IT WILL BE SAID THAT I WAS SUBSERVIENT TO MY WIFE. MY GANAS WILL HAVE TO FIGHT HIM.

HE TURNED TO HIS GANAS.

ALL OF YOU ARE MY OWN, INCLUDING PARVATI'S SON. SO A BATTLE MAY NOT SEEM PROPER TO YOU.

BUT IF WE DON'T ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE, WE MAY BE MISUNDERSTOOD. GO! FIGHT AND DEFEAT HIM. IT SHOULD BE EASY.

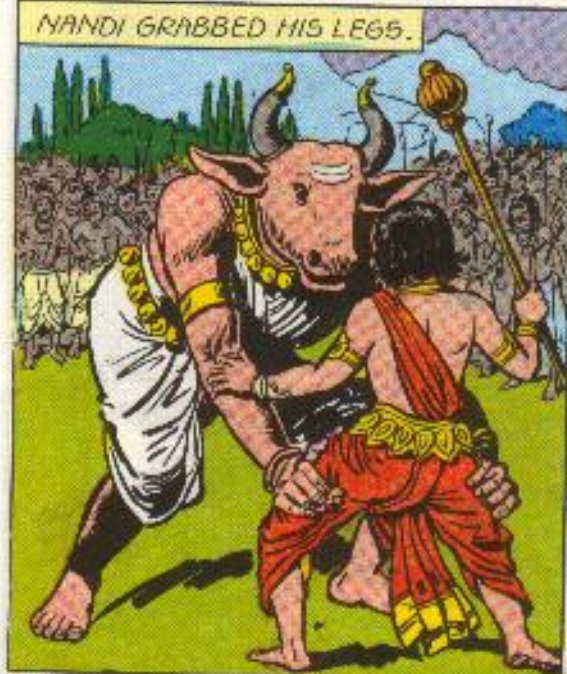
SO THE GANAS, FULLY ARRAYED FOR WAR, WENT BACK TO THE BOY. HE WAS AMUSED WHEN HE SAW THEM.



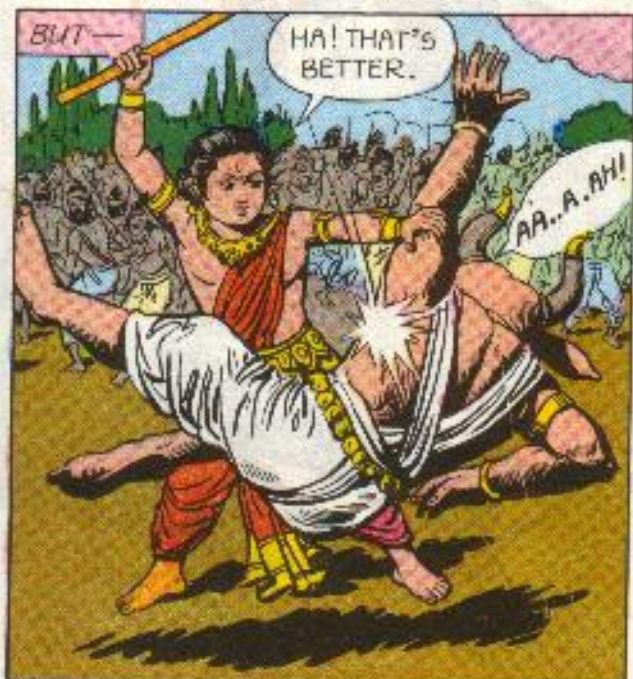
THE GANAS RUSHED AT HIM.



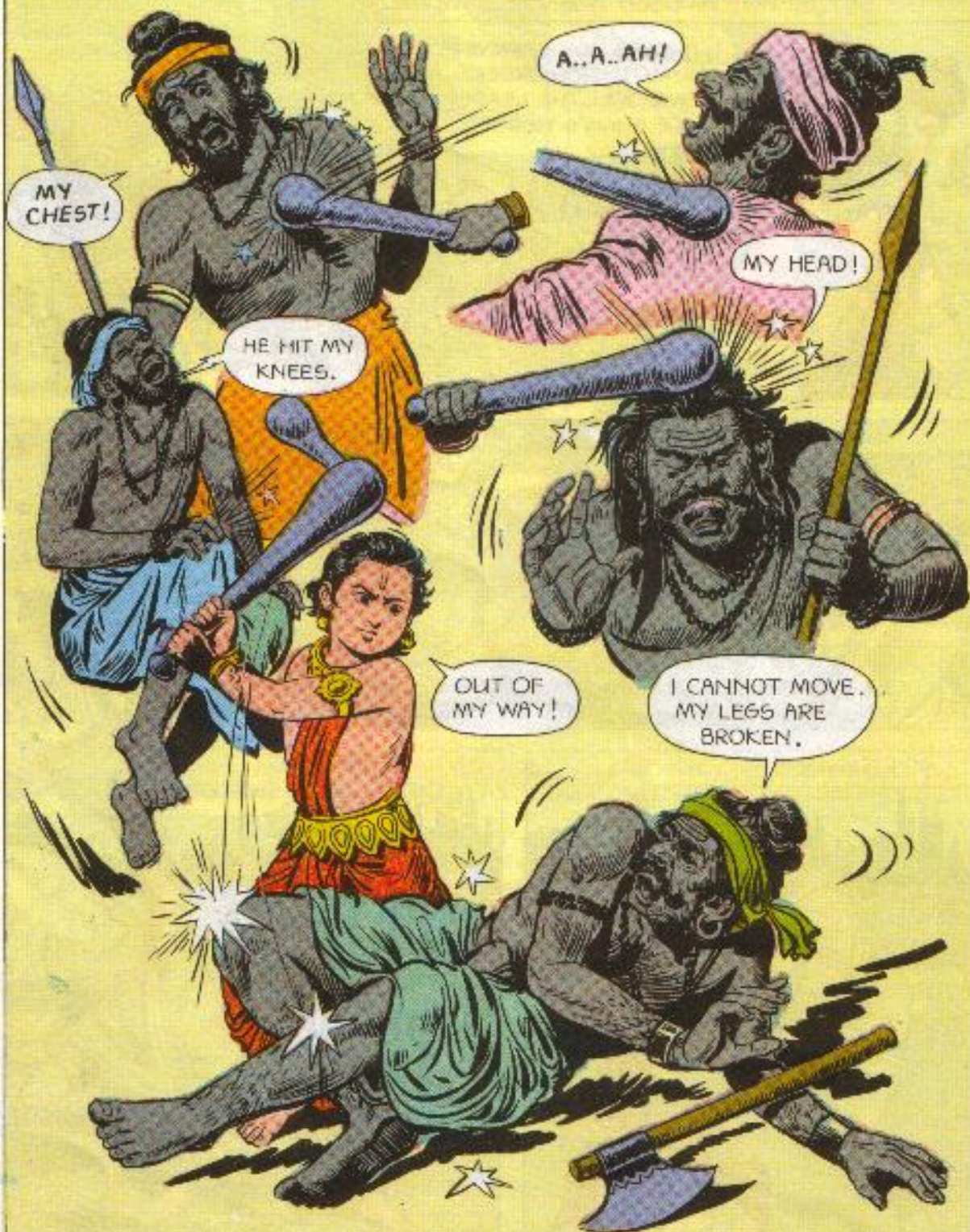
NANDI GRABBED HIS LEGS.



BUT—



THEN THE BOY SEIZED AN IRON CLUB AND WHIRLED IT ABOUT.



MANY OF THE GANAS FELL.



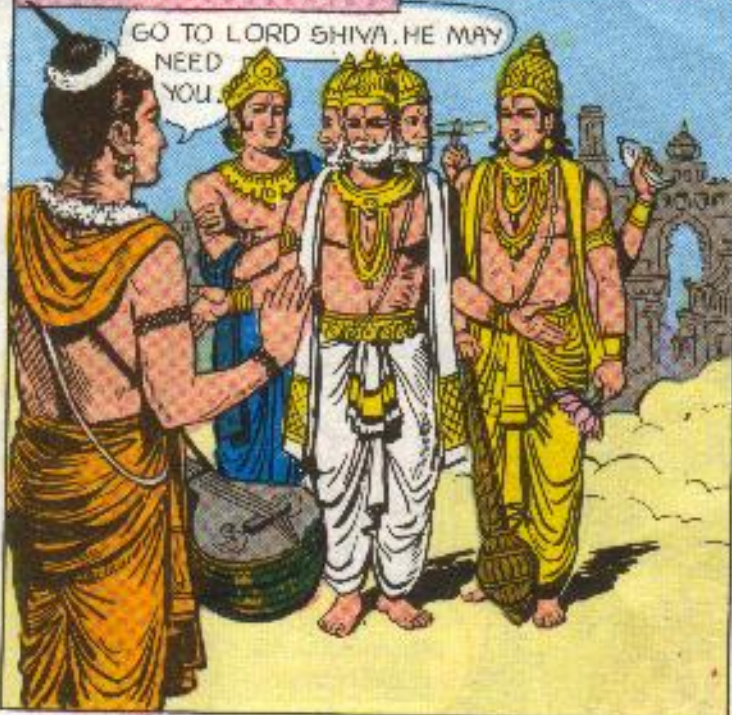
THE REST FLED AS FAST AS THEY COULD.



THE BOY ONCE AGAIN TOOK HIS POST AT THE DOOR.



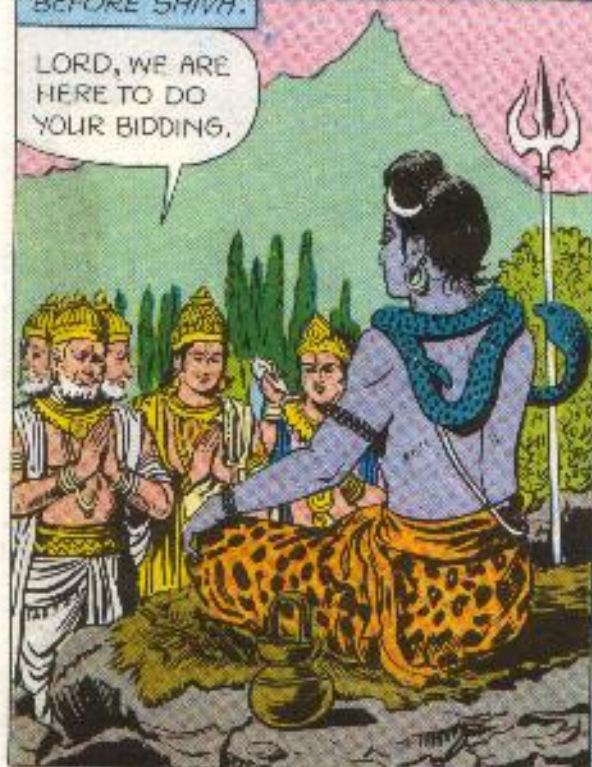
MEANWHILE, WHEN BRAHMA, VISHNU AND INDRA HEARD THE UPROAR, THEY TALKED THE MATTER OVER WITH SAGE NARADA.



GO TO LORD SHIVA. HE MAY NEED YOU.

THEY WENT ACCORDINGLY AND BOWED
BEFORE SHIVA.

LORD, WE ARE
HERE TO DO
YOUR BIDDING.



SHIVA TOLD THEM ALL..

...AND HE DARES TO
PREVENT ME FROM
ENTERING MY OWN
HOME.

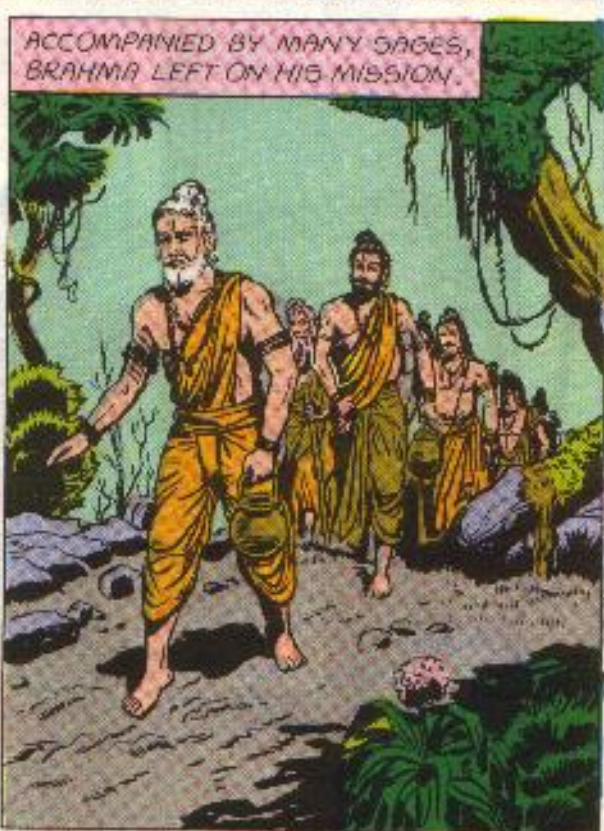


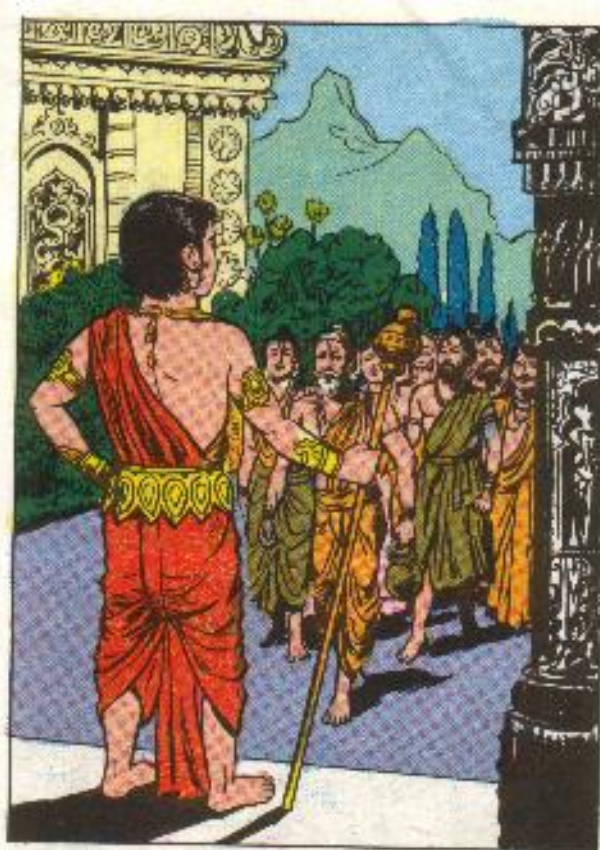
O BRAHMA, GO
THERE AND TRY
TO BRING HIM
UNDER CONTROL.



I SHALL GO
DISGUISED AS
A BRAHMAN.

ACCOMPANIED BY MANY SAGES,
BRAHMA LEFT ON HIS MISSION.



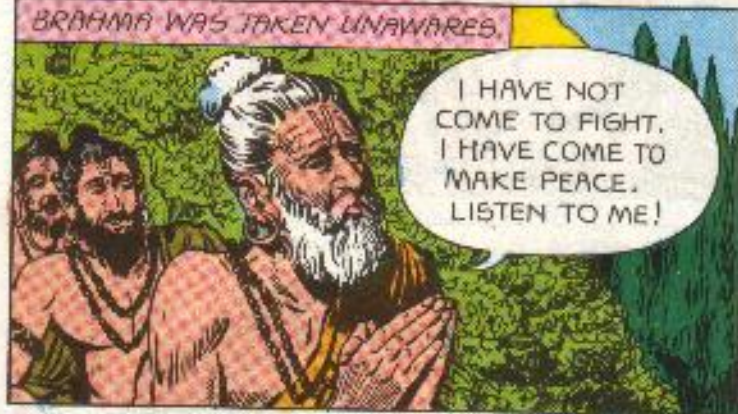


AS THEY NEARED HIM, THE YOUTH
SUDDENLY JUMPED FORWARD AND —



THAT SHOULD
TEACH YOU
A LESSON.

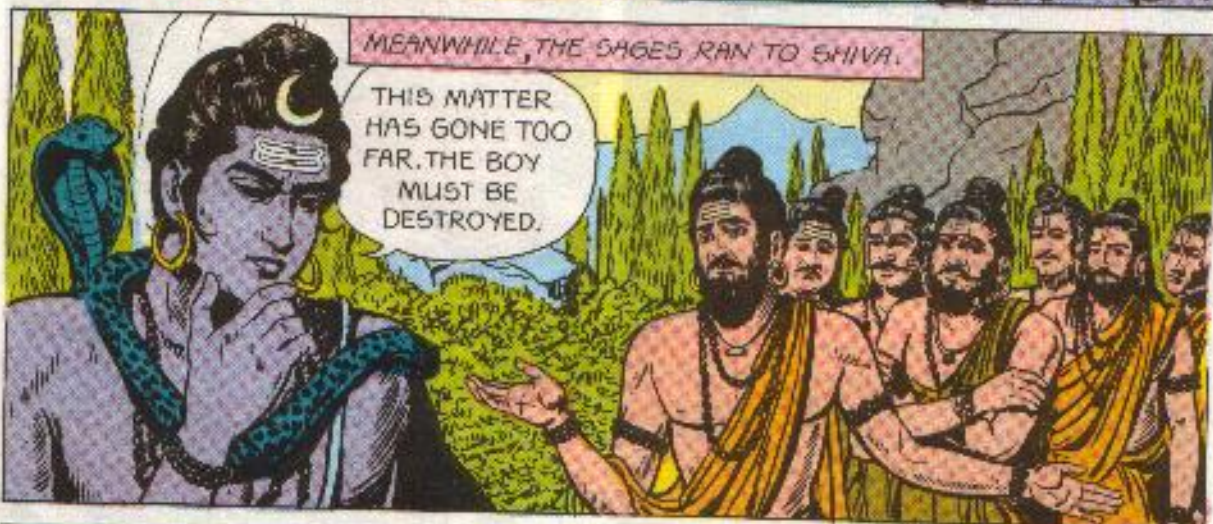
BRAHMA WAS TAKEN UNAWARES.



I HAVE NOT
COME TO FIGHT.
I HAVE COME TO
MAKE PEACE.
LISTEN TO ME!

FOR AN ANSWER, THE YOUTH
LIFTED HIS CLUB MENACINGLY.





HE SENT FOR HIS SON, KARTIKEYA, AND INDRA, THE KING OF THE DEVAS.



THE DEVAS, LED BY INDRA, AND THE GANAS, BY KARTIKEYA, FELL UPON THE BOY FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.



BUT THE BOY FACED THEM VALIANTLY.



MEANWHILE, PARVATI LEARNED OF ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED. SHE WAS FURIOUS.



HOW DARE THEY HARASS MY SON!

THEN AND THERE SHE CREATED THE TWO SHAKTIS, KALI AND DURGA.



KALI STOOD
BETWEEN THE
BOY AND THE
ENEMY, OPENING
HER MOUTH
WIDE, SHE
SWALLOWED
THEIR WEAPONS.



...AND HURLED THEM BACK.

DURGA TOOK THE FORM
OF LIGHTNING...



...AND DESTROYED THE ENEMIES' WEAPONS
BEFORE THEY COULD REACH THE BOY.



BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM THEY
DID NOT LET A SINGLE WEAPON
COME ANYWHERE NEAR THE BOY'S
SWINGING CLUB.



INDRA AND HIS DEVAS WERE COMPLETELY ROUTED.



EVEN KARTIKEYA,
WHO HAD KILLED
THE INVINCIBLE
TARAKASURA,
WAS HELPLESS.



THEY HELD COUNCIL.

WHAT SHOULD
WE DO?

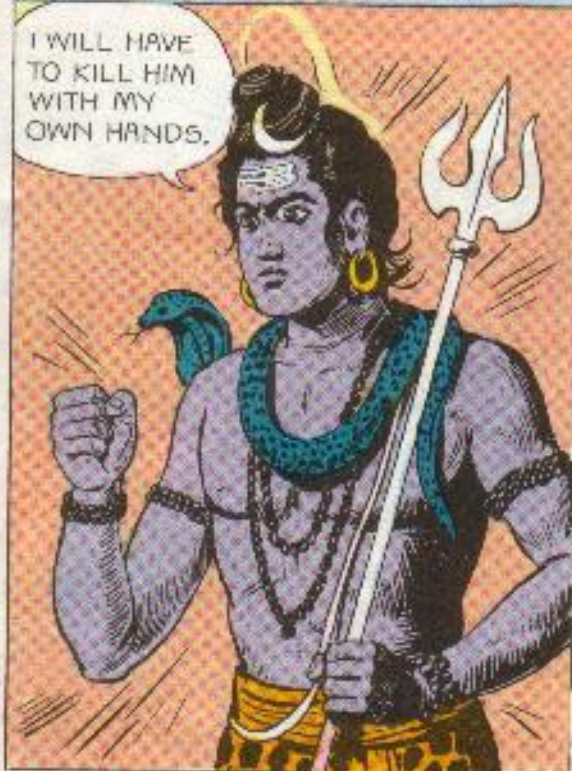
LET US GO
BACK TO
SHIVA.



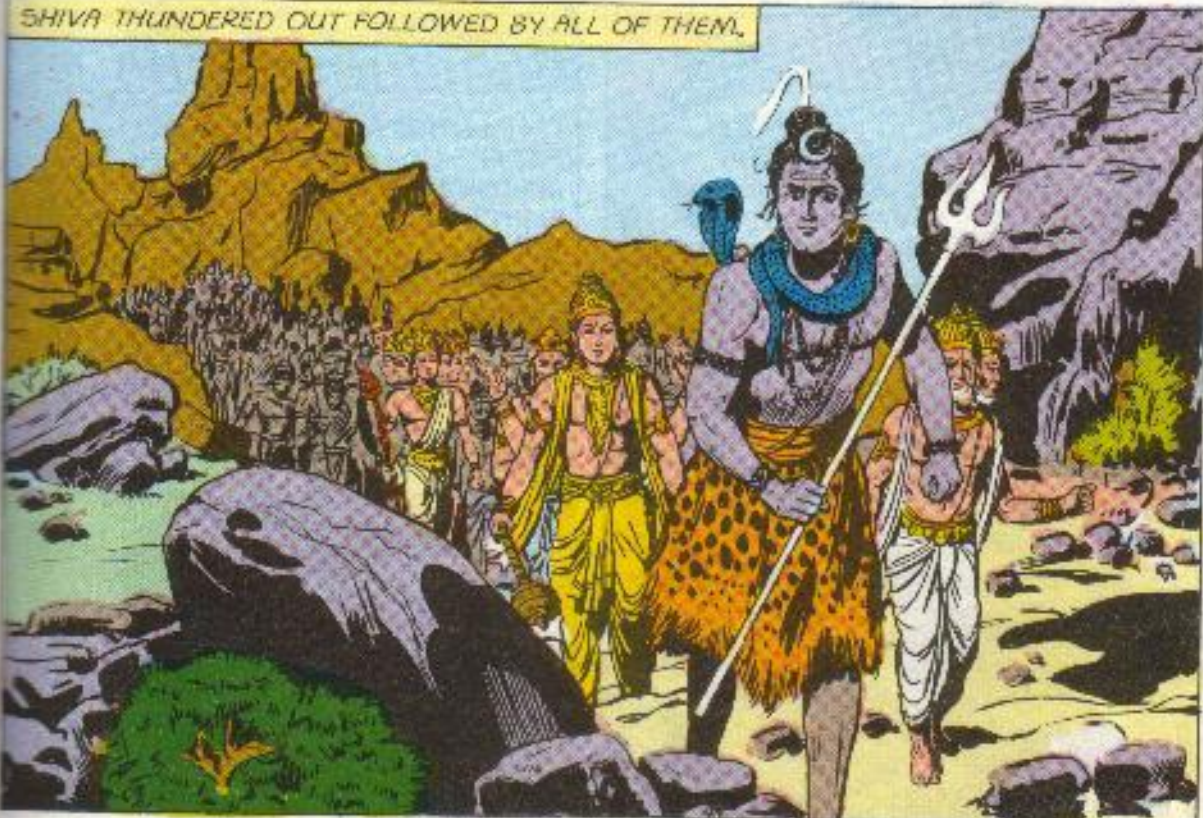


THEIR PRAISE ONLY INFURIATED SHIVA.

I WILL HAVE TO KILL HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS.



SHIVA THUNDERED OUT FOLLOWED BY ALL OF THEM.



UNPERTURBED BY THE SIGHT OF SHIVA, THE BOY ATTACKED!
ALL THE CHIEF GODS. ONE BY ONE THEY FELL.



AS SHIVA WATCHED HIM
FIGHT, HE WAS AMAZED.



THE SAME THOUGHT HAD STRUCK
VISHNU TOO. HE SPOKE TO SHIVA.



BUT KALI AND DURGA
DIVINED
THEIR
INTEN-
TIONS.

WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO?

LET US CONFER ALL OUR
STRENGTH ON THE YOUTH.
! THEN EVEN VISHNU'S
MAYA WILL PROVE
INEFFECTUAL.



WITH THE ADDED STRENGTH OF
THE TWO SHAKTIS, THE BOY
SWUNG HIS CLUB AT VISHNU.

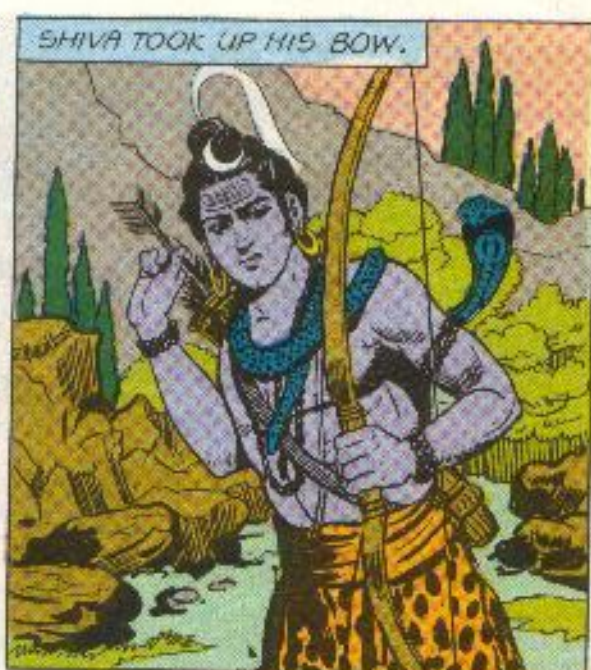


VISHNU HAD TO USE ALL
HIS ENERGY TO DODGE IT.



SHIVA SAW HIS PLIGHT AND
CHARGED WITH HIS TRIDENT.





THE BOY LIFTED HIS CLUB...



...BUT IT WAS CUT IN TWO BY VISHNU'S DISCUS.



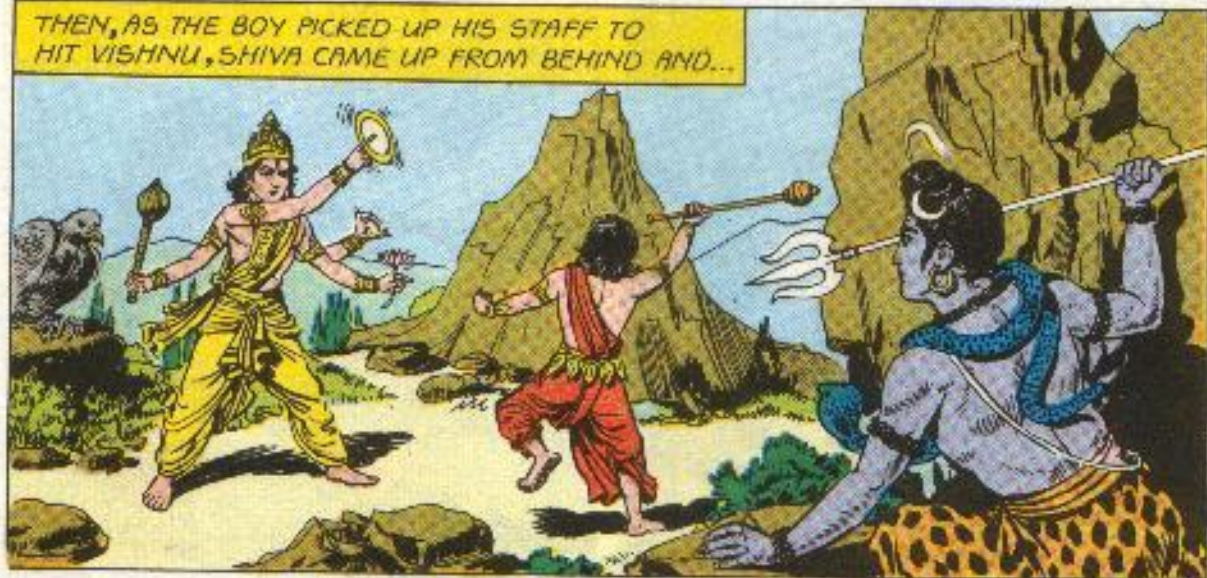
THE BOY HURLED
THE PIECE THAT
WAS LEFT IN
HIS HAND...



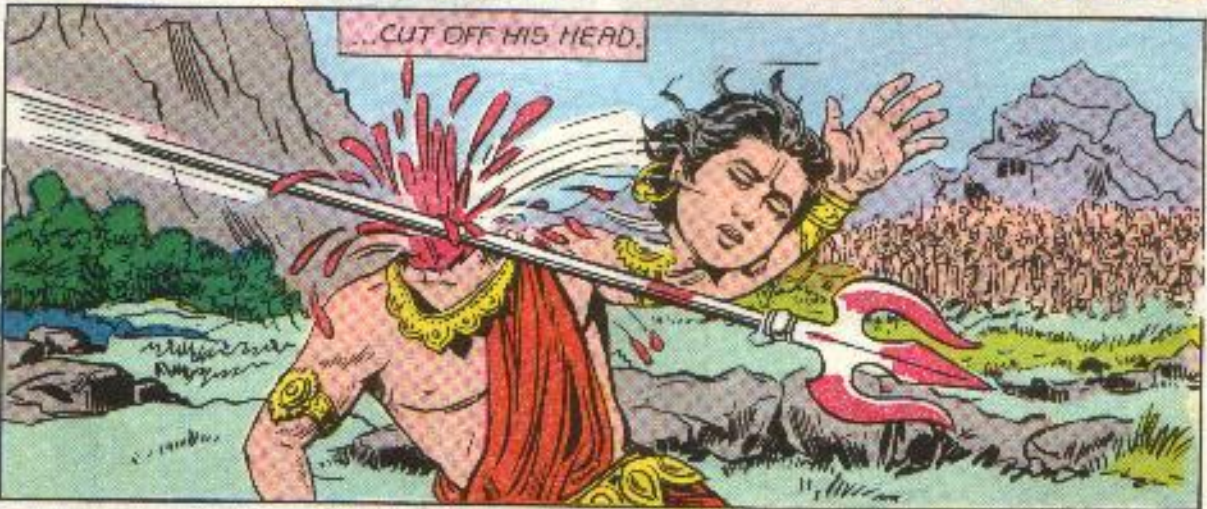
... BUT VISHNU'S MOUNT,
GARUDA, CAUGHT IT AND
PROTECTED HIS MASTER.



THEN, AS THE BOY PICKED UP HIS STAFF TO HIT VISHNU, SHIVA CAME UP FROM BEHIND AND...



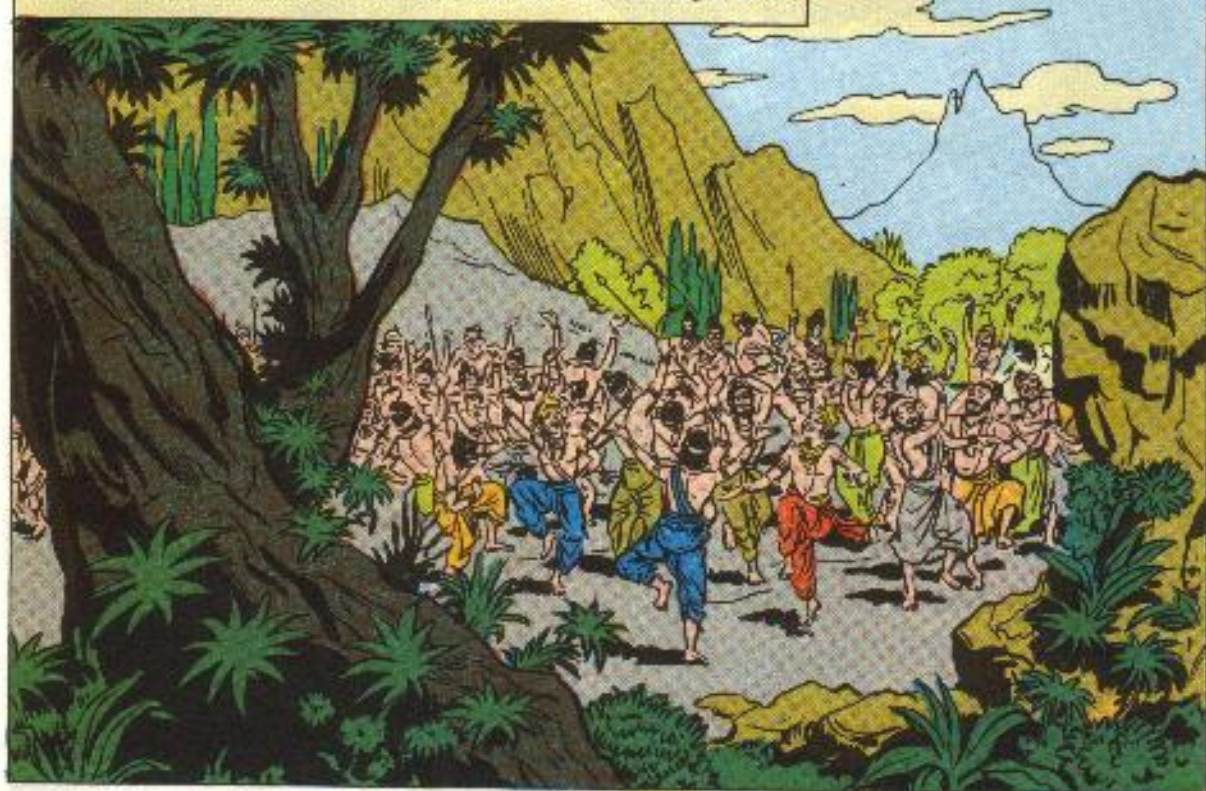
...CUT OFF HIS HEAD.



FOR A MOMENT ALL ON THE SCENE STOOD STILL, THEIR GAZE FIXED ON THE VALIANT HERO.



THEN THE DEVAS AND THE GANAS BECAME JUBILANT.



BUT SHIVA WAS TROUBLED.



MEANWHILE, WHEN PARVATI LEARNT OF HER SON'S DEATH—



OUT OF HER FURY, SHE CREATED HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF SHAKTIS.

O MOTHER, WHAT
IS YOUR COMMAND?

DESTROY ALL THE
DEVAS AND GANAS.
DEVOUR THEM.



THE SHAKTIS IMMEDIATELY SET ABOUT CARRYING OUT
HER COMMAND. BRAHMA AND VISHNU WERE TERRIFIED.



PARVATI MUST
BE APPEASED.

THEY PROPITIATED PARVATI AND PLEADED FOR MERCY.

O GREAT GODDESS,
HAVE MERCY ON US.
WE SHALL ACCOMPLISH
WHATEVER YOU ASK
OF US. FORGIVE US.

I WILL, BUT
MY SON MUST
REGAIN HIS LIFE AND
MUST HAVE AN HONOUR-
ABLE STATUS
AMONG YOU.

THEY WENT TO SHIVA AND PUT
PARVATI'S CONDITIONS BEFORE HIM.

IT SHALL BE DONE.
FOR THE SAKE OF
PEACE AND HAPPINESS.

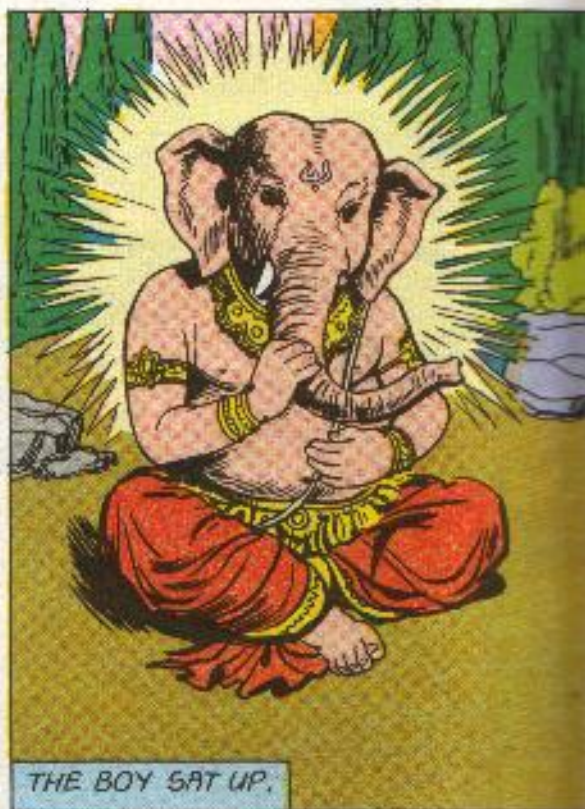
GO NORTH, BRING THE
HEAD OF THE FIRST CREA-
TURE THAT CROSSES
YOUR PATH. FIT THAT
HEAD TO THE BOY'S
BODY AND IT WILL
COME TO LIFE.



IT WAS A SINGLE-TUSKED ELEPHANT THAT MET THEM.



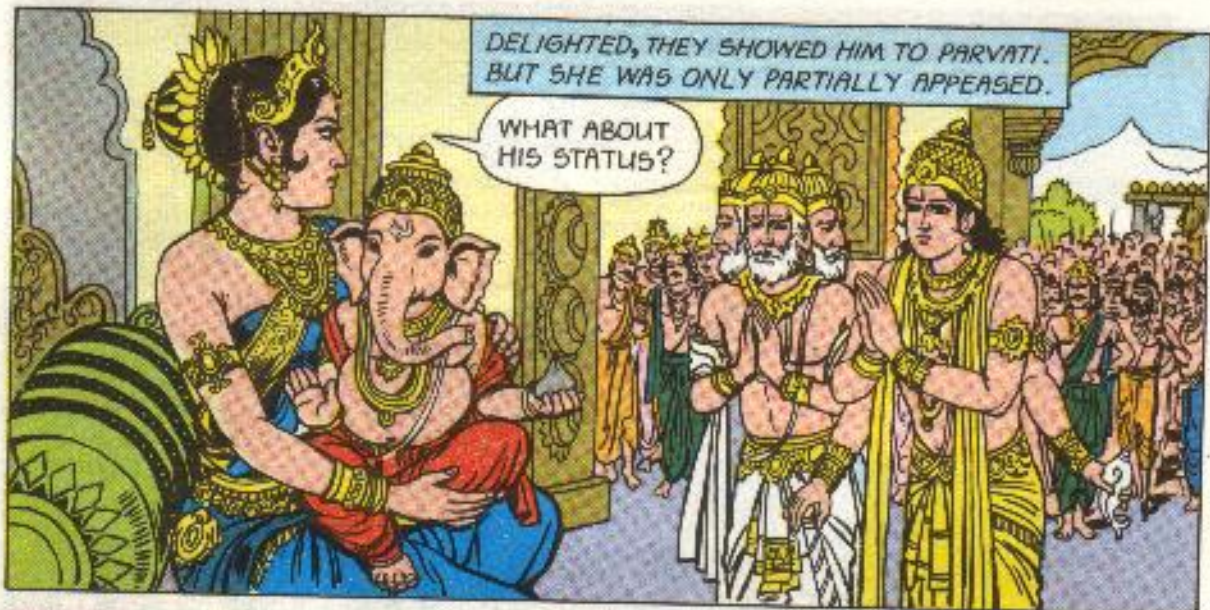
THEY BROUGHT THE HEAD BACK AND FITTED IT TO THE BODY OF THE BOY.



THE BOY SAT UP.

DELIGHTED, THEY SHOWED HIM TO PARVATI.
BUT SHE WAS ONLY PARTIALLY APPEASED.

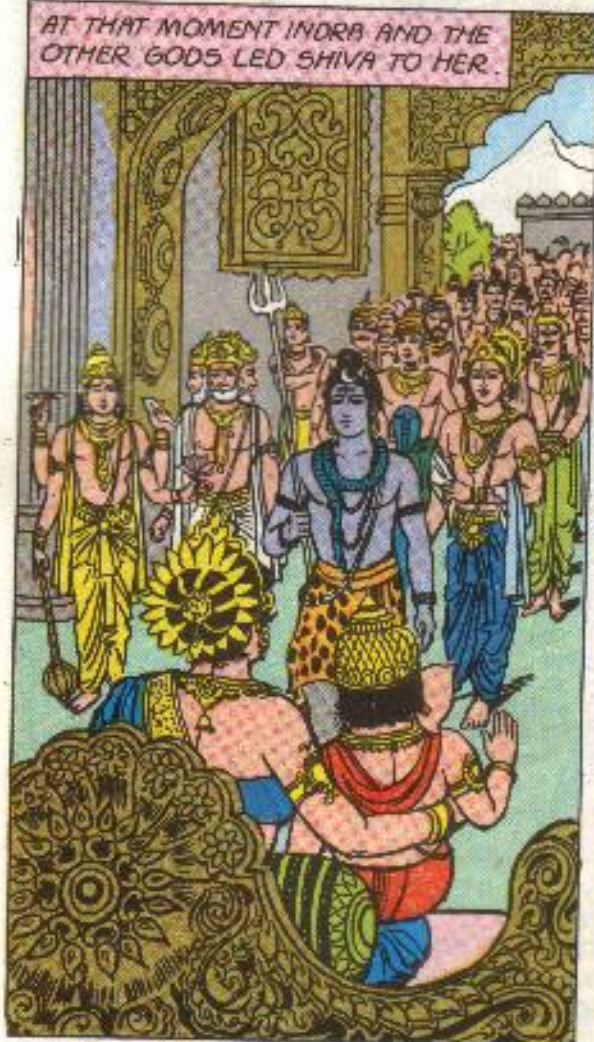
WHAT ABOUT
HIS STATUS?



AT THAT MOMENT INDRA AND THE
OTHER GODS LED SHIVA TO HER.

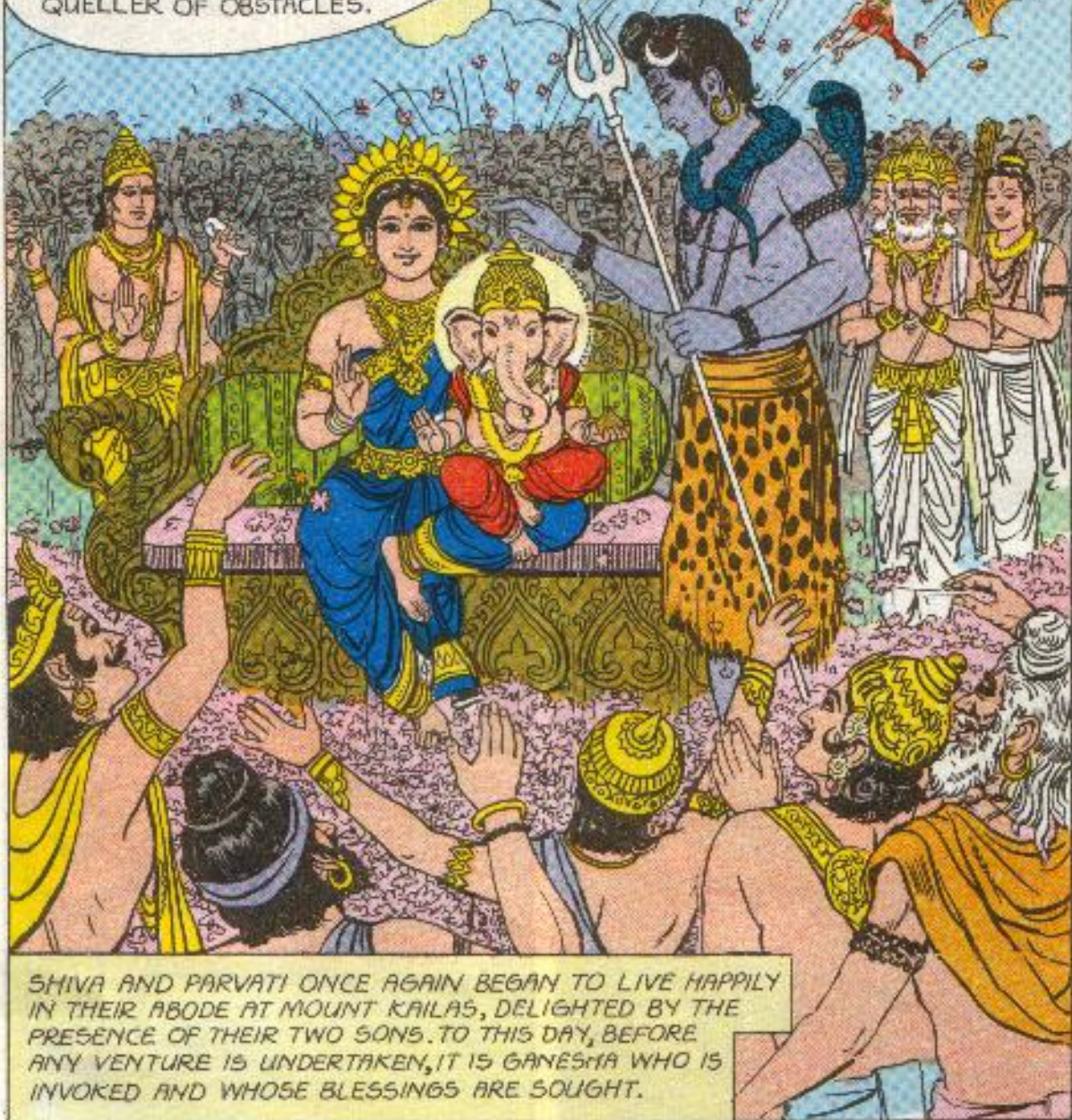
SHIVA BOWED BEFORE PARVATI.

FORGIVE ME, PARVATI.
ARROGANCE IS CHAR-
ACTERISTIC OF THE
MALE. THIS VALIANT
YOUTH SHALL BE
ANOTHER SON OF
MINE.



THEN SHIVA PLACED HIS HAND ON THE BOY'S HEAD.

EVEN AS A MERE BOY YOU SHOWED GREAT VALOUR. YOU SHALL BE GANESHA, THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF ALL MY GANAS. YOU SHALL BE WORTHY OF WORSHIP FOREVER. YOU SHALL ALSO BE CALLED VIGHNESHWARA, THE QUELLER OF OBSTACLES.



SHIVA AND PARVATI ONCE AGAIN BEGAN TO LIVE HAPPILY IN THEIR ABODE AT MOUNT KAILAS, DELIGHTED BY THE PRESENCE OF THEIR TWO SONS. TO THIS DAY, BEFORE ANY VENTURE IS UNDERTAKEN, IT IS GANESHA WHO IS INVOKED AND WHOSE BLESSINGS ARE SOUGHT.